

(a) whether Guwahati and Shilong are big centers of narcotics smuggling in the north-east region of the country; and

(b) if so, the steps taken by the Government to curb smuggling of narcotics in the region?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI RAMESHWAR THAKUR): (a) and (b). Although there are few reports of transit of heroin of Myanmar origin through Guwahati and Shilong, these places cannot be considered to be centers of narcotics smuggling. No esquire of heroin has been reported from these places during the years 1990 and 1992 (till date). During the year 1991, 6 kgs. of heroin in 15 cases was seized in Shilong. During the year 1991 no seizure of heroin was reported from Guwahati. Agencies of Central and State Governments keep strict vigil in this matter.

Prices of N.T.C. Products

5885. SHRIMATI DIL KUMARI BHANDARI: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether National Textile Corporation has reduced the price of its certain products and rolling these prices back to level available in July, 1990; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI ASHOK GEHLOT): (a) and (b). National Textile Corporation rolled back the prices of Dhotis and Sarees being produced under the Controlled Cloth Scheme, to the levels obtaining in July, 1990.

Toll Tax on Entry of Vehicles in States

5886. KUMARI PUSHPA DEVISINGH: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT

be pleased to state:

(a) the names of the States which levy toll tax on entry of vehicles registered outside their States;

(b) whether the Union Government have given any directions to State Governments to withdraw such toll tax; and

(c) if so, the details thereof and the policy of the Union Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER): (a) As per information available, the State Government of Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Haryana, Rajasthan and Orissa are levying an entry toll on vehicles registered outside the States.

(b) and (c). The Government of India has written to the State Governments of Haryana, Rajasthan, Uttar Pradesh and Madhya Pradesh that the levy of such tolls results in detention of vehicles, is not conducive to smooth inter-State flow of goods and passengers and results in avoidable wastage of fuel, under utilisation of vehicles leading to increased cost of transportation.

It was also pointed out to the State Governments at the meeting of the Transport Development Council held on 14-1-92 that imposition of such a toll is an undesirable development and the State Governments should desist from imposing such levies.

[Translation]

Darbhanga Airport

5887. SHRI BHOGENDRA JHA: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) the present state of Darbhanga Airport in Bihar;

(b) whether the Government propose to close this airport;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(d) if not, the steps being taken by the Government to develop this airport?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI S. KRISHNA KUMAR): (a) Darbhanga airstrip belongs to the IAF. It is usable by Avro/Boeing 737 class of aircraft, provided adequate notice is given.

(b) & (c): As the airstrip is no longer required by the IAF for its use, a proposal to hand it over to the State Government is under consideration

(d) Does not arise.

[English]

Development of Inland Water Transport Facilities in River Brahmaputra

5888. SHRI UDDHAB BARMAN: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government have received any proposal from the Government of Assam to develop more inland water transport facilities in the river Brahmaputra;

(b) if so, the present status of the proposal; and

(c) the action taken by the Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER): (a) to (c) A letter has been received a few days back from Minister

(Transport). Government of Assam requesting consideration of their proposal to procure two hovercrafts for cargo transportation on Brahmaputra beyond Guwahati. The State Govt. had projected the proposal for acquisition of a hovercraft in the State plan (Annual Plan/8th Five year plan) and they were advised that this may be considered during 9th Five year plan after watching the performance of the hovercraft proposed to be acquired at other places in the country.

[Translation]

Development of National Highway No.

12

5889. SHRI RAM NARAIN BERWA: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) the number of bridges and by-passes which are being constructed on the National Highway No. 12 passing through the border of district Tonk;

(b) the total expenditure incurred thereon;

(c) whether the National Highway passing through Tonk district is in a dilapidated condition; and

(d) if so, by when it is likely to be repaired?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER): (a) Ten bridges & three bypasses are being constructed on the National Highway No. 12 passing through the border of district Tank.

(b) An expenditure of Rs. 1053.50 lakhs has been incurred thereon upto September 1991.

(c) No, Sir.